

2 March 1987
MBK-7006

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Bangkok Bureau -- February 1987

I. GENERAL

February was relatively quiet in Thailand, nevertheless Army Commander General Chawalit Yongchaiyut managed to stir up quite a bit of controversy with some pointed criticism of politicians who, in his opinion, are more interested in profiting from politics than in serving the public good. While individuals were not mentioned by name, his descriptions apparently were easily recognizable in many instances. Criticism from the powerful army commander is always something to be reckoned with, and judging from the outcry he stirred up he obviously touched a sore spot. In the past such statements would have created speculation about a possible coup. This time, however, there is no indication such a movement is being considered, and some feel the country has moved beyond the stage where coups would have much popular support. The prime minister and many of his top officials feel confident enough that things are in good order that they are going through with a lengthy official trip to Europe in March.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The South Asian Unit continued its careful, sustained watch on developments in India and Pakistan, particularly the handling of the military tensions along their border. At the beginning of the month talks were held in India to ease tensions, and on the 4th Delhi radio carried a report on an initial "understanding" to pull back troops from the border. The ROSET came through with a nice interview of the two negotiators carried by Indian television, which the bureau filed. Special staffing arrangements were made to cover the 21-23 February trip by the Pakistani president to India, ostensibly to watch the cricket match between the two national teams. During this "cricket diplomacy" President Zia met Indian Prime Minister Gandhi, which helped to further defuse the situation. The next round of talks began in Pakistan on the 27th, and at month's end the Bureau was continuing to keep a close eye on developments and reporting them promptly.

2. On 1 February, at Headquarters request and following coordination with Hong Kong Bureau and MOD, Bangkok formally assumed AFP coverage of Asia (except the PRC, Taiwan, and the Philippines) as well as Hong Kong's worldwide AFP coverage. The changeover went smoothly and the Bureau has adjusted to its new coverage responsibilities.

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3. Again in February the Bureau was involved in covering television feeds from the Philippines. From 2-4 February an open watch was conducted on two television transponders on the 60 East Intelsat during the voting on the new Philippine constitution. Then from 25-26 February the same transponders were observed on the first anniversary of the revolution that toppled former President Marcos. Three Aquino speeches were texted and a number of FYIs sent.

4. Due to unforeseen irregularities in a generally reliable arrangement for receiving Vietnamese newspapers, the Bureau was forced to ask NEAD to cover NHAN DAN and QUAN DOI NHAN DAN until advised we can resume coverage, and to ask Hong Kong Bureau to reinstitute subscriptions to these papers for us. The Bureau has been assured by our local supplier that the papers should begin to arrive again any day. Even when that happens the Bureau plans to retain the ~~the~~ subscription through Hong Kong as a backup to guard against a repeat of these delivery problems.

5. TDY Engineer [] installed the Bureau's new automatic facsimile processor and had it up and running by the 16th. Since then the Bureau has concentrated on printing the late night Vietnam fax transmission of their party newspaper NHAN DAN. So far it has not been possible to predict what will be carried on any given night. At times one page has been sent, at other times two pages have been received, and on a number of occasions only photographs have been transmitted with no text at all. Nevertheless, the very first printout of a page of NHAN DAN (the night of 16 February) came in very useful. Early on the 17th, Hanoi radio reported the largest government reshuffle in 30 years. A number of ministries were merged and renamed, and a number of ministers dropped, including the defense minister. The NHAN DAN frontpage printed at Bang Ping the night before carried the same report broadcast by the radio, and the monitors were able to confirm the names, some of which would otherwise have been rendered phonetically. It was also possible to file a comparison FYI the same day. The Bureau continues to process this fax transmission for evaluation of its coverage potential.

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B. Lateral Services

The BBC requested one item from Jakarta radio during the month.

C. Technical

1. Upgrading of the second half of the basement at Bang Ping has been completed. This will now give us additional storage space and room for a heavy-duty workshop.

2. The renovation of the editorial room has started, in anticipation of the arrival of the PCs. Completion of the project will take approximately three weeks.

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3. New Equipment:

- a. 1 ea. Microdyne Corp. satellite TV receiver,
Model No. 114
- b. Adaptable Facsimile Processor, Delta Info. Systems
Model ARP/NT 600

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Editors [] were promoted to GS-11 effective 1 February. STAT
2. Editorial trainee [] was promoted to GS-10 effective 1 February. STAT
3. Teletypist trainee [] resigned effective 14 February. STAT

B. Buildings and Grounds

With the concurrence of Ambassador Brown, State Department's site selection team decided to construct the new chancery building on the Peurifoy Compound, located directly across the street from the current embassy grounds. Construction is due to start in FY-1988 and be completed by the end of FY-1991. The Bureau will then most likely be moved to the present chancery compound. We shall see!

IV. VISITS

A. Engineer [] was on TDY to Bangkok 13-19 February to install the automatic facsimile processor. STAT

B. Joe McBride, recently arrived chief of the External Unit of the Political Section of the Embassy, was given a briefing and tour of the Bureau on 18 February. STAT

C. On 9 Feb. Seoul Editor [] her husband, and daughter visited the Bureau while on private travel; Hong Kong Deputy Chief [] and Editor [] visited the Bureau on 16 Feb. while on private travel. STAT

[]
Chief, Bangkok Bureau

Attachment: Monthly Production Report
RMB/cia

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BANGKOK BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 87

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	618,810
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	220,640
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,468

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	21,245 min.	29,310 min.	265.00 issues
III. <u>OUTPUT FROM ROSET SOURCES:</u> (publishable words per month)			

INDIA

Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English	4,160
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MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English	9,920
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NEW CALEDONIA

Noumea RFO Television FEED in French	470
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PHILIPPINES

Manila Television Feed in English	2,610
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SRI LANKA

Colombo Lanka Puvath in English	22,490
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IV. OUTPUT FROM ALL OTHER SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)AUSTRALIA

Melbourne Overseas Service in English	24,140	
Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English		5,730
Sydney THE BULLETIN in English		0
Sydney THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English		0

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>BANGLADESH</u>			
Dhaka Overseas Service in English	0		
Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali	0		
Dhaka Domestic Service in English	3,490		
Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali	250		
Dhaka BSS in English		0	
Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English			1,630
Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali			960
<u>BRUNEI</u>			
Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English			0
<u>BURMA</u>			
Rangoon Domestic Service in English	0		
Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese	4,090		
Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English			260
Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese			890
Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese			2,340
Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese			0
<u>CAMBODIA</u>			
Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian	28,500		
Phnom Penh SPK in English		12,550	
Phnom Penh SPK in French to KPL Vientiane		0	
Phnom Penh SPK in French		3,320	
Phnom Penh VNA in Vietnamese to VNA Hanoi		0	
Phnom Penh VNA in French to VNA Hanoi		0	
<u>CHINA</u>			
Beijing International Service in Bengali	0		
Beijing International Service in Burmese	0		

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
<u>CHINA</u> (continued)			
Beijing International Service in Indonesian	0		
Beijing International Service in Lao	0		
Beijing International Service in Thai	0		
Beijing in Cambodian to Cambodia	560		
Beijing in Hindi to India	340		
Beijing in Malay to Malaysia	0		
Beijing in Urdu to India and Pakistan	340		
<u>CLANDESTINE</u>			
(Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in English	0		
(Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	10,580		
(Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay	1,280		
(Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian	6,100		
(Clandestine) Voice of the National Army Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	8,570		
(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Burma in Burmese	1,370		
(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Malaysia in Malay	0		
(Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil	3,710		
<u>HONG KONG</u>			
Hong Kong AFP in English		63,290	
<u>INDIA</u>			
Delhi General Overseas Service in English	6,460		
Delhi Domestic Service in English	45,500		
Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English	4,160		
Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi	120		
Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English		300	
Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English			0
Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English			0

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
<u>INDIA (continued)</u>			
Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English			3,290
Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English			0
Delhi PATRIOT in English			5,040
Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English			3,380
Delhi THE HINDU in English			1,460
Delhi INDIA TODAY in English			0
Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali			0
<u>INDONESIA</u>			
Jakarta International Service in English	2,560		
Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian	8,080		
Jakarta JAKARTA POST in English			1,420
Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English			350
Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian			750
Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian			150
Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian			0
Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian			1,030
<u>LAOS</u>			
Vientiane Domestic Service in Laos	34,400		
Vientiane KPL in English		14,780	
Vientiane KPL in English to SPK Phnom Penh			0
Vientiane KPL in French to SPK Phnom Penh			0
Vientiane SPK in French to SPK Phnom Penh			0
Vientiane VNA in Vietnamese to VNA Hanoi			0
Vientiane PASASON in Lao			0
Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao			0

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>MALAYSIA</u>			
Kuala Lumpur International Service in English	5,880		
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English	1,990		
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay	2,060		
Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English		9,920	
Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English			3,310
Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English			0
Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay			1,300
Kuala Lumpur BERITA MINGGU in Malay			0
Kuala Lumpur MINGGUAN MALAYSIA in Malay			0
Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay			320
<u>NEPAL</u>			
Katmandu External Service in English	190		
Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English			0
<u>NEW CALEDONIA</u>			
Noumea RFO Television FEED in French	470		
<u>PAKISTAN</u>			
Karachi Overseas Service in English	2,250		
Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu	0		
Karachi Domestic Service in English	8,790		
Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu	19,200		
Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English			3,260
Karachi DAWN in English			4,810
Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English			0
Karachi JASARAT in Urdu			0
Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu			0
Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu			0

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>PAKISTAN (continued)</u>			
Lahore Jang in Urdu			0
Karachi NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu			0
<u>PHILIPPINES</u>			
Manila Television Feed in English	2,610		
<u>SINGAPORE</u>			
Singapore Domestic Service in English	3,860		
Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English			5,270
Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English			170
<u>SRI LANKA</u>			
Colombo International Service in English	3,720		
Colombo International Service in Hindi	0		
Colombo Domestic Service in English	0		
Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil	0		
Colombo Lanka Puwath in English		22,490	
Colombo DAILY NEWS in English			820
Colombo SUN in English			0
Colombo WEEKEND in English			0
<u>THAILAND</u>			
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English	2,290		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Cambodian	0		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Lao	0		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai	4,320		
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Vietnamese	0		
Bangkok Domestic Service in English	1,800		
Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai	4,850		
Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai	470		

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>THAILAND</u> (continued)			
Bangkok Television Service in Thai	3,010		
Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English			28,150
Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English			6,310
Bangkok THE NATION in English			25,990
Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai			500
Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai			0
Bangkok MATICHON in Thai			2,650
Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai			2,070
Bangkok NAED NA in Thai			2,570
Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai			2,650
Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai			0
Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai			0
Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai			1,640
Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese			1,170
Bangkok XING XIAN RIBAO in Chinese			860
Bangkok XIN ZHONG YUAN RIBAO in Chinese			140

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Moscow International Service in Tamil	0
Moscow in Bengali to Bangladesh	0
Moscow in Burmese to Burma	1,750
Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia	1,490
Moscow in Hindi to India	0
Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia	80
Moscow in Lao to Laos	980
Moscow in Thai to Thailand	0
Moscow in Urdu to India	0
Moscow in Urdu to Pakistan	0

	<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
<u>UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS</u> (continued)			
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Indonesian	0		
<u>UNITED KINGDOM</u>			
London BBC World Service in English	930		
<u>VIETNAM</u>			
Hanoi International Service in English	6,020		
Hanoi International Service in Cambodian	0		
Hanoi International Service in Thai	0		
Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese	94,260		
Hanoi VNA in English		1,650	
Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			0
Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			0
Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese			0
Hanoi TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese			0